

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1-9 are pending and under consideration.

Applicant has timely filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with this Amendment, including the filing fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the finality of any Office action and enter this Amendment for consideration under 37 CFR 1.114.

I. Interview

Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the telephone interview granted by the Examiner on April 4, 2007. During the interview, the possibility of more definitely reciting the feature of checking the code word at the second transceiver unit and at one of the further transceiver units. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 9 in accordance with this discussion. Other points raised during the interview are included in the comments below.

II. Objection to the Drawings

In the Office Action at item 3, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to show the radio communications system claimed. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that Fig. 1 only illustrates the base stations. It is respectfully submitted that this is incorrect. Fig. 1 clearly illustrates a series of base stations and a mobile station operating within the network for the purposes of the handover method for a radio communications system as claimed. Because the claims are directed to a method, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings (including the flowchart of Fig. 2) show all the features of the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,122,512 to Bodin.

Bodin does not discuss or suggest:

checking the code word at the second transceiver unit and at one of the further transceiver units, which receives the handover signaling message on the same frequency as the second transceiver unit, to determine whether a handover signaling message or a signaling message for requesting a radio link has

been received,
as recited in claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides that one of the further transceiver stations, not taking part in the handover procedure, receives and checks a handover signaling message from the mobile station and ignores the handover signaling message based on the identification of a code word. Furthermore, the transceiver station that is participating in the handover procedure and the further transceiver station both receive the handover signaling message on the same frequency.

Referring again to the embodiments disclosed in the specification, the mobile station might move from cell Z03 to cell Z33, from the coverage area of base station BTS03 to the coverage area of base station BTS33. BTS33 is notified by the radio communications system that handover procedure is going to occur. The mobile station is authorized to perform a handover and is assigned to a traffic channel with a particular frequency, which traffic channel is to be used to communicate with BTS33. In the example described in the specification, frequency F1 is used as the traffic channel between the mobile station and BTS33. Frequency F1 is also the broadcast frequency assigned to BTS13.

The mobile station sends a handover signaling message to BTS33. Because frequency F1 is also assigned to BTS13, BTS13 also receives the message. In order to avoid BTS13 from interpreting the message as a channel request message, and thereby overloading the communications system, BTS13 determines whether the code word contained in the message matches a reserved code word corresponding to a handover code.

Unlike BTS33, BTS13 has not been notified by the radio communications system that a handover is to occur. When BTS13 checks the code word, BTS13 ascertains that the received message is a handover signaling message and not a channel request message. Accordingly, BTS13 does not request a new channel, and this prevents overloading the communications system. Because BTS33 has been notified that it is the target of the handover, BTS33 performs the normal handover procedure.

In contrast, Bodin does not disclose providing a handover signaling message to a further transceiver station at all, much less providing the handover signaling message on the same frequency as it is provided to an intended station. Bodin, as relied on by the Examiner, merely discloses performing a handover between two stations and does not disclose that a verification is performed at another base station "one of the further transceiver units" that is not taking part in the handover procedure.

Therefore, Bodin does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1, so that claim

1 patentably distinguishes over Bodin. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,647,262 to Demetrescu et al.

As discussed above, Bodin does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1, so that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Bodin. Demetrescu et al. fails to make up for this deficiency.

Claims 3-6 and 8 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claims 3-6 and 8 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

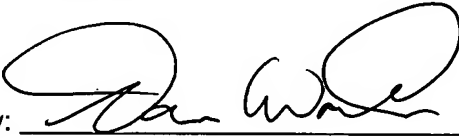
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 5-2-07

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing(s) include changes to FIGS. 1 and 2.

In the Office Action at item 4, the Examiner objected to the drawings and requested that the drawings sheets be numbered. In order to overcome this objection, replacement figures are submitted herewith. Approval of these changes to the Drawings is respectfully requested.